

January 2013

You are invited to attend a Forum at the Leighton Hall, Scientia Centre, University of New South Wales, Anzac Parade, Kensington at 6:30pm on Sunday 24 February 2013.

The Forum will be addressed by the Hon. Kevin Rudd MP, former Prime Minister of Australia and the Hon. Joe Hockey MP, the Federal Shadow Treasurer on Australia's relations with Asia to be followed by a Q&A session with both Kevin Rudd and Joe Hockey which will also include the head of ActionAid Bangladesh, Farah Kabir and also the renowned actress Miriam Margolyes and Professor Atique Islam Pro Vice Chancellor of Edith Cowen University on the issue of EDUCATION AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF SOUTH ASIAN WOMEN. The addresses and Q&A sessions will be compared by SBS TV presenter Jenny Brockie.

ActionAid Australia is one of the major Australian anti-poverty organisation and, in partnership with ActionAid Bangladesh, has adopted as a project worthy of support the five Happy Homes in Dhaka, which focus on providing livelihood skills and education and a day care and live in facility for a number of needy street girls in that city.

Established in 2006 the centres have provided life saving assistance to the vulnerable girls who have benefited from its programmes. The need to tackle homelessness amongst children vulnerable to dangers ranging from violence and exploitation to illness, malnutrition and a lifetime of entrenched poverty and neglect is obvious.

The Australian Government has committed itself in its International Development Assistance Program 2012/13 to assisting Bangladesh to overcome poverty and focuses increasing access to health services, helping children to gain primary education and reducing levels of extreme poverty - all objectives of the Happy Homes Project.

This event follows the successful August 2010 launch of the Bangladeshi Friends of ActionAid Australia Inc which raised \$49 000.

We encourage you to attend the Forum and to bring with you any others you think may be interested. On the back of this letter you will find a map showing you where parking facilities are and how to get to the Leighton Hall. The university is probably best entered from Botany Street.

Kind regards,



The Hon. John Dowd AO QC
President
ActionAid Australia



Professor Sheik Rahman
President
Bangladeshi Friends of ActionAid Australia

